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Anti-shah demonstrators blamed Scarlet paint splatters CIA recruiter at OSU

Plain Dealer special

COLUMBUS — A recruiter for the Central Intelligence Agency was splattered with red paint yesterday by anti-shah demonstrators at Ohio State University.

The recruiter was in the College of Engineering's job placement office in Hitchcock Hall when several persons entered and threw a bucket of red paint on her and two OSU employees.

About 20 persons demonstrated outside. They carried signs proclaiming "Victory to the Iranian People's Revolutionary Struggle" and "Run the CIA Off Campus."

Literature also was passed out carrying the name of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade.

There were no arrests.

William V. Merriman, director of communications for OSU, refused to identify the CIA recruiter. He said she had requested anonymity.

D. Tarver Hagan, director of engineering placement, who was in the office with the recruiter, said someone entered and read an unintelligible statement. He said a second person then entered with a bucket of paint and threw it at the recruiter whose back was turned. Hagan and a secretary were also splattered with paint.

Hagan said other arrangements were made to conduct the job interviews which were canceled yesterday because of the incident. However, he declined to say where they would be held.

On occasion the CIA tries to recruit OSU students. Yesterday's interviews were for students who had majored in electrical engineering or in computer and information science.

John Kleberg, deputy chief of OSU campus police, said several of the demonstrators were not students. He said his department was investigating.